

MINUTES
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
AND
MINISTERIUM
OF THE
STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA
AND
ADJACENT PARTS,
CONVENED IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,
Lincoln County, N. C., on May 18th, 1832.

SALEM:
PRINTED AT THE FARMERS' REPORTER OFFICE.
1832.

MINUTES.

Thursday morning, May the 17th, 1832.

In conformity to a resolution of the last Synod, a number of Ministers and Lay Delegates convened at St. Paul's Church Lincoln County; but in consequence of the absense of an ordained member, who was detained by the high water of Catawba, a quorum could not be formed; whereupon the Brethren with the Congregation, joined in public worship, which commenced at 11 o'clock, A. M. The Rev. ADAM GRIMES pronounced a discourse in the English language from Rom. 11ch. 29v. At 2 o'clock, P. M., another discourse in the English language was delivered by the Rev. JOHN T. TABLER, from John 7ch. 17v. After singing and prayer the congregation was dismissed to meet again on Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

Friday morning, May 18th, 1832.

The President being absent on account of age and increasing infirmity, the session was opened with prayer by the Secretary, after which the names were called, and the following Ministers and Delegates appeared and took their seats.

The Rev. H. Graber Sec.,	Lincoln County.
Jacob Miller,	Davidson County.
William Artz,	Orange County.
John T. Tabler,	Rowan County.
Adam Grimes,	Surry County.

The Lay Delegates present were

Major George Huffman,	-	St. Paul's Church, Lincoln County.
Philip Oehler,	- -	Savage's Church, Rowan County.
Christopher Barringer,	-	St. Michael's Church, Iredell Co.
Christian Rinehart,	-	Surry County.
George Miller,	- -	Union Church, Rowan County.
Jacob House,	- - -	St. John's Church, Lincoln County.
Frederick Scherer,	- -	Friedens Church, Guilford County.

The Rev'd D. Scheck, Delegate from the South Carolina Synod, was introduced and invited to take a seat with this body.

The members now proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. On counting the votes it appeared that the following brethren were duly elected:

Rev'd Henry Graber,	President.
William Artz,	Secretary.
Theobald Lentz,	Treasurer.

The petitions were then handed in, and also the letters intended for the Synod.

On motion, resolved, that the letters be referred to a Committee.

The Rev'd Jacob Miller, Rev'd J. D. Sheck and Major G. Huffman, were appointed said committee.

A committee to report on the petitions was appointed consisting of Rev'd H. Graber, Rev'd Wm. Artz and Frederick Scherer.

A third committee was appointed to report on the Minutes of sister Synods, composed of the Rev. John T. Tabler, Theobald Lentz and Philip Oehler.

The resolution contained in the Minutes of last Synod, respecting the proposed constitution was taken up & discussed.

On motion, it was resolved, that said constitution be read.

Resolved, that we attend to the exercise of divine worship.

At 2 o'clock, the Rev'd Jacob Miller preached from II Tim. 3ch. 16, 17 verses.

Synod resumed its business.

The Rev. Mr. Fritche, of the German Reformed Church, was introduced and invited to partake in the deliberations of the Synod.

The proposed constitution was then read, article after article, and remarks made by the members.

On motion, the Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Fritche.

Saturday morning, May 19th, 1832.

Synod opened with prayer by the Secretary.

Reading the constitution continued, and remarks on the same by the members.

On motion, it was resolved, that a committee consisting of two Ministers and two Lay Delegates be appointed to make such amendments of the constitution and additions to it, as are deemed necessary, and present the whole to the Synod on Tuesday morning next.

The following persons were appointed to constitute said committee: Rev'd H. Graber, Rev'd Wm. Artz, Major George Huffman and Frederick Scherer.

The committee to whom was assigned the duty of examining sundry documents beg leave to report, that—

No. 1 and 2 contains papers which your committee recom-

mend be referred to the committee, which may hereafter be appointed to examine the Treasurer's account.

No. 3, is the manuscript of the proceedings of the Synod of 1831, prepared for the press by the late Secretary, your committee recommend, that they be recorded in the Journal of the Synod.

Nos. 4 and 5 be referred to the Synod.

No. 6, contains letters of a private character, and consequently do not concern the Synod.

No. 7, contains letters from Samuel Rothrock to the Rev. G. Shober, late President of this Synod, having reference to certain reports in circulation injurious to himself. Your committee have been able to learn from letters received from the Professors in the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, that the reports are without foundation.

No. 8, contains three letters, the first of which is from our Rev'd Brother D. P. Rosenmiller, directed to the Synod, your committee recommend, that the said letter be read before the Synod, and that some order be taken upon it. The second is also from the same, intended for the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North-Carolina. The third is from Mr. Samuel Rothrock to Rev'd G. Shober, acknowledging the receipt of fifty dollars sent him by the Treasurer of the Synod, for which he has given note with security.

No. 9, is a catalogue of books, bequeathed to the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, by the late Pastor Storch, together with a transfer of the same to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of N. C. Your committee recommend, that the Synod take possession of said books and make provision for their safe keeping. No. 9 contains also letter from Mr. Vogler of Salisbury to the Rev'd G. Shober, having reference to the above mentioned books.

No. 10, is a letter from the Rev'd Daniel Scherer to the Synod of N. C., containing his parochial report, and prays, that his absense be excused, your committee recommend, that he be excused, and that his letter be read before the Synod.

All of which is submitted with deference.

Rev'd JACOB MILLER, *Chairman.*

On motion, resolved, that the above report be accepted.

Resolved, that the Rev'd President furnish the Rev'd D. P. Rosenmiller a regular dismissal from this body as a member in good and honourable standing.

The Synod then adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

A sermon was delivered from Isaiah 55ch. 6v. and service performed preparatory to the Lord's Supper, by the Rev'd J. D. Scheck.

After which the Synod resumed its business.

Resolved, that the Secretary correspond with the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, respecting the conveyance of the books, which they have reserved for themselves to the Rev. G. Morris of Baltimore.

Resolved that the Synod gratefully accept, from the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the residue of the Books, which were bequeathed to them by our venerable father Storch.

Resolved, that the price of the book called LUTHER, be reduced to 25 cents.

The committee on petitions reported as follows:

No. 1, is a petition signed by 35 persons, some of whom are members of our Church, in which they pray, that the Rev'd Adam Grimes be authorized to perform all requisite ministerial services among them.

Referred to the Ministerium.

No. 2, is a petition from Frieden's Church, Guilford County, in which they earnestly pray to be favoured with the next session of this Synod.

Referred to the consideration of the Synod.

No. 3, is a petition from the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Salisbury, in which they express their wish to have the Rev'd John T. Tabler for their stated Minister, and that he take charge of the Congregation immediately.

Referred to the Ministerium.

No. 4, is a petition from St. John's Church, Cabarrus County, in which they state their destitute situation, in consequence of the removal of the Rev'd Daniel Scherer, and wish to be supplied with a minister who can officiate in the German and English languages.

Referred to the Ministerium.

No. 5, is a memorial signed by the Elder and Deacons of Emanuel's and Zion's Churches, Davidson County, in which they express their approbation of the conduct of Mr. John Reichart, and pray that his licence be renewed.

Referred to the Ministerium.

No. 6, is a petition from St. Michael's Church, Iredell C. praying for ministerial aid, and if they cannot be immediately supplied with regular preaching, they may be visited occasionally by some Minister of our Church.

Referred to the Ministerium.

No. 7, is a memorial from the rev'd Jacob Grieson in which he prays that his absense may be excused and his license renewed.

Referred to the Ministerium.

Respectfully submitted.

H. Graber, *Chairman*.

Resolved, that the excuse of the Rev'd Jacob Grieson, be sustained.

Synod adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev'd J. D. Scheck.

Sunday, May 20th.

On Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, the members of the Synod, and a large congregation, assembled in the Church, for public worship. The services of the occasion were commenced by the President, and a sermon delivered in the German language, by the Rev'd Jacob Miller, from John 14ch. 15v. Immediately after, the Rev'd William Artz pronounced a discourse in the English language from Acts 26ch. 28,29 verses. An address was then made at the altar, after which the sacred ordinance, instituted by our blessed Redeemer, in memory of the offering up of himself an atoning victim for the sins of the world, was administered;—the members of the Synod, and a respectable number of the members of the congregation uniting in its celebration. The service was then closed with a benediction.

Monday morning, May 21st.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the Secretary.

The committee to whom was referred the examination of the Minutes of several sister Synods beg leave to report.

The appointment of the Rev'd Mr. Sheck as delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of S. C., to this body, and whose presence we hail with pleasure, together with the very welcome and affectionate reception of our late delegate to that body, the Rev'd Mr. Rosenmiller, are the only matters in which this body is interested. JOHN T. TABLER, *Chairman*.

Resolved, that the above report be accepted.

Resolved, that Rev'd Wm. Artz be appointed Ministerial Delegate to the next session of the Lutheran Synod of S. C.

Resolved, that we procure an Archive to preserve the papers belonging to the Synod, and the Rev'd President be authorized to procure the same, and forward it as early as practicable, to the Secretary.

Resolved, that the question brought before the Synod, having reference to the printed minutes of the last session, be dismissed.

Resolved, that the minutes for the year 1830, be transcribed into the Journal of the Synod, and that the Rev'd John T. Tabler be requested to do it.

Resolved, that a Committee be appointed to examine the Treasurer's account; whereupon the Rev'd Jacob Miller and Theobald Lentz were appointed said committee.

The following contributions for the Synodical Treasury were received:

Philip Oehler	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,65
Frederick Scherer	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,014
Major George Huffman	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,06
Rev'd Jacob Miller,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 80
Mr. House, Miller and Barringer	-	-	-	-	-	-	13 00
							~~\$20,524~~

Resolved, that in case Mrs. Storch is not disposed to preserve the books, deposited with her for this Synod, that Mr. Theobald Lentz be authorized by the President to take care of them.

Resolved, that the President be authorized to give license, during the recess of Synod, to applicants who may come well recommended, and who are disposed and are deemed qualified to labour within its limits.

Resolved, that the sum of \$8,00 which was advanced, by the Rev'd G. Shober, *Treasurer*, to Samuel Rothrock, be refunded to him by the Synod.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Resolved, that the Rev'd Adam Grimes be authorized to perform all requisite ministerial functions, marriage excepted, for the term of one year.

Mr. John T. Tabler, student of divinity of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, presented himself for examination and licensure.

Resolved, that he be examined and that the examination take place before the Ministerium.

The examination having been attended to, and the result highly satisfactory, it was resolved, that Mr. John T. Tabler be received as a licentiate and entitled to the privileges of a member of this Synod.

We recommend, that the rev'd John T. Tabler, take charge of the Lutheran Congregation in Salisbury, and of St. Michael's Church, Iredell County.

We recommend, that the rev'd President visit St. John's Church, Cabarrus County.

Resolved, that the rev'd President address an affectionate letter to Mr. John Reichart, and invite him to the next meeting of the Synod.

Resolved, that the license of the rev'd Jacob Greison be renewed for one year; and we recommend that he visit, if practicable, the Lutheran Churches in Davidson County.

Report of the Committee appointed to examine the former Treasurer's account, which is as follows:

All receipts in the Synodical Treasure from May 1831 to 32	\$164 58
Disbursements	58 58½

Deducted from the amount received leaves	\$104 00
Lent to Samuel Rothrock	50 00

Monies on hand	\$54 00
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Paid to Mr. Lentz the present Treasurer.

Resolved, that the above report be accepted.

Resolved, that the minutes of this session be printed in both languages, and that 200 copies be printed in the English and 200 in the German language.

Resolved, that the rev'd Father Shober be requested to translate them into the German, and to superintend the printing of them in both languages.

Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.—
Prayer by the rev'd Jacob Miller.

Tuesday morning, May 22d.

Synod met and opened with prayer by the Secretary.

The Committee appointed to alter and amend the proposed constitution for district Synods, carefully read and respectfully submitted the same to the consideration of the Synod.

Moved and seconded, that the constitution as presented by the committee be adopted. The question being taken and the votes counted, it appeared, that it was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that the Constitution be printed in the German and English languages, and that it be appended to the minutes.

Resolved, that the rev'd H. Graber be authorized to translate the same into the German language, and that he be remunerated for his services.

Resolved, that the rev'd G. Shober superintend the printing of the constitution in both languages.

Resolved, that the minutes of our Synod be transmitted in the following ratio:

5	copies	to the General Synod,
5	do	to the Synod of New York,
5	do	to the Hartwick Synod,
5	do	to the Synod of Virginia,
10	do	to the Synod of South Carolina.

And that the Rev'd G. Shober be requested to make a complete distribution of them to the above Synods and to the Lutheran Churches in connexion with the Synod.

Resolved, that the sum of \$1,50 cts. be refunded to our late secretary for the publication of the time of the present session of the Synod, in the Salisbury Western Carolinian.

The Synod proceeded to the choice of the time and place of its next session. Invitations were received from Iredell, Cabarrus and Guilford counties.

The members balloted and on counting the votes, it appeared that Guilford County was chosen.

Resolved, that the next session of this Synod be held in Frieden's Church, Guilford County. Resolved, that it be held on the Thursday before the first Sunday in May 1833.

The President presented the thanks of this Synod to the members of St. Paul's Church, and the people generally, for their kindness and hospitality.

The Brethren then joined in singing an hymn of praise and on bended knees, the Rev'd President closed the session with a fervent prayer to Almighty God.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of the Synod and Ministerium held in St. Paul's Church, Lincoln County, N. C. May 1832, WILLIAM ARTZ, Secretary.

P. S.

After Synod the Rev'd Jacob Scherer sent to the Treasurer, donations from his 5 Congregations in Wythe, Virginia.

St. John's Church	-	-	-	-	\$3 00
Zion's do.	-	-	-	-	4 65
St. Paul's do.	-	-	-	-	3 22½
Kemmerling's	-	-	-	-	3 12½
Burk's Garden	-	-	-	-	1 00

\$15 00

In these 5 Congregations Rev'd Scherer had last year 321 Communicants, confirmed 21, baptised children 48, 1 adult, buried 10.

The Rev'd Br. Jenkins, from Tennessee, sent a letter to excuse his absense. This arrived after Synod.

On Monday the 21st, at 2 o'clock, P. M. a meeting of the Missionary Society was called; but as there was not a sufficient number of members present to transact business, the Synod resumed its session. No Missionary could be procured to visit the destitute portions of our Church, during the past year. The funds, though small, and to which no addition has been made since the last report of the Treasurer, are still lying dormant in his hands; bearing no interest, and effecting no good for the Church.

Brethren in the Ministry, Members of the household of faith; why this indifference to the interests, this inattention to the wants of our Zion? Surely this institution is calculated to do much good. It is the glory of the Church, and every genuine son of the Church will labor and pray for its prosperity. Look around you, all is action now. Christians of other denominations are active and liberal in supporting the Missionary, Bible, and Tract Societies among themselves, and yet they have no more ability, no more money than we have, and why are we not equally active and liberal? Let us no longer content ourselves to be so far behind the age in which we live; but come up cheerfully and courageously to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

WM. ARTZ, *Secretary.*

CONSTITUTION

For the members composing the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Section I. OF THE SYNOD.

Art. 1. It was found necessary and profitable in the primitive Church, to have an occasional meeting of different individual Churches, for the purpose of consultation and mutual encouragement, in preserving their purity and promoting their welfare. This apostolical custom is retained in the Lutheran Church, under the name of Synod, or Conference.

Art. 2. A Synod consists of all the Ministers, Licensed Candidates, and Lay Delegates duly authorized to represent the Congregations within their respective districts.

Art. 3. No Minister or Licensed candidate is entitled to more than one Lay-Delegate, and if a lay-delegate be present from a district, from which there is no Minister present in the Synod, he shall have equal privileges with the other lay-delegates.

Art. 4. It is the duty of this Synod, to see that the rules of government and discipline prescribed in the Formula, are observed by all the Congregations and Ministers within its bounds, if deemed practicable, to receive appeals from decisions of Church Councils and of special Conferences when regularly brought before them; and review and reverse or confirm the decisions to which they refer; to examine and decide on all charges against Ministers and Licentiates, that of heterodoxy alone excepted; to form and change ministerial districts; to attend to any business relating to their Churches, which is regularly brought before them, to provide supplies for destitute Congregations, and to devise and execute suitable measures for the promotion of piety and the general prosperity of the Church, not otherwise disposed of in the Formula.

Art. 5. To this end the Synod and Ministerium shall have power to cite any Church members within their bounds to appear before them; and to endeavour to obtain other witnesses, when the case may require it.

Art. 6. If any congregation, in connexion with this Synod should refuse to observe the provisions of its Constitution or of the Formula, (see Art. 4) it shall be excluded from connexion with said Synod during the time of its refusal; nor shall any Minister or Licentiate belonging to the Synod, take charge of it without special permission of the President. Provided, however, that if the charter of any Congregation be at variance with any article of the Formula, said charter shall have precedence of those articles with which it is in conflict.

Art. 7. Any Congregation, situated within the bounds of this Synod, may become connected with it, by acceding to the provisions of its Constitution, and making some annual contribution towards defraying the expenses of said Synod. For this purpose an annual collection ought to be held in each congregation.

Art. 8. At least one meeting of the Synod shall be held every year, at such time and place as may be determined on by said Synod.

Art. 9. No Minister or Licentiate shall be absent from the meeting of the Synod without the most urgent necessity. In case of his absense, he shall, if possible send to the Synod a written apology for his absense. Voluntary ministerial engagements shall not be regarded as a sufficient excuse. Any Minister or Licentiate violating the provisions of this article, shall be called to account by the President at the next meeting.

Art. 10. These written apologies, as well as all other letters and papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium, ought to be addressed to the President.

Art. 11. The Minister of the place in which the Synod is held, with the church council shall endeavour to provide for the entertainment of the ministers, candidates and lay-delegates by christian friends.

Art. 12. All the members of the Synod shall endeavor to assemble on the evening preceding the day appointed.

Art. 13. Divine Worship shall be celebrated, during the meeting of the Synod, as often as may be convenient, and consistant with the business of the Synod.

Art. 14. Ministerial Delegates from other Lutheran Synods, shall be entitled to have a seat and vote, and to partake in all our synodical transactions.

Art. 15. Ministers of good standing in other Ecclesiastical Bodies, or in any sister Churches, who may happen to be present, or who appear as Delegates from said Bodies, may be received as advisory members, but cannot vote in any decisions of the Synod.

Section II.

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD.

Art. 1. The officers of the synod shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Art. 2. All these officers shall be chosen annually by ballot, the President and Secretary from among the ordained ministers regularly belonging to the Synod, so likewise the Treasurer; or from among the Lay-Delegates present, as the Synod may deem expedient. The President, Secretary and also the Treasurer of the Synod (if he be an ordained minister) are also the officers of ministerium.

Art. 3. The same persons shall not be eligible to these offices for more than three successive years.

PRESIDENT.

Art. 4. The President if practicable, or any ordained minister whom he may request, shall deliver a synodical discourse at the meeting of every Synod: and he shall, in connexion with the pastor of the place, appoint the other individuals who are to preach during the session.

Art. 5. He shall at the beginning of every Synod, make a written report of all the official business transacted, and letters received by him, since the last meeting, and of all the important events which have occurred relating to the Synod, and may recommend for their consideration, such measures as he may deem necessary, or calculated to promote the cause of God. This report shall be laid on the table, and dealt with as with all other papers coming before the body.

Art. 6. He presides at all meetings of the Synod and Ministerium.

Art. 7. The President has a right to take part in the discussions as well as the other members. When the house is equally divided on any question, he has the casting vote. In all other cases he has no suffrage, except when an election is held by ballot, and then he has not the casting vote.

Art. 8. The President shall preserve order, not suffer more than one member to speak at a time, secure to each person liberty to speak without interruption from others, and shall prevent the speaker from deviating from the subject before the House.

Art. 9. The President shall take care, that each subject be duly considered, before a decision be made. He shall distinctly rehearse each motion, when no one has any further observations to offer, and take the votes of the House on the same.

Art. 10. When the votes are called for, they are to be given by Rising and Sitting, and no further observations are then admissible.

Art. 11. The President has the appointment of all Committees, which are not to be elected by ballot, or otherwise; and every motion for the formation of a committee shall specify in what way it is to be formed.

Art. 12. It is an important part of his duty to give counsel to every member of the Synod, when he deems it expedient, and particularly to admonish and advise every erring brother. If accusation has been lodged against any member of this body, according to chapter the 3d, and section the 5th of the Formula, it shall be his duty to call upon the individual to relieve his character from said imputation, before the Synod or Ministerium.

Art. 13. Should the President remove from the limit of the Synod or depart this life, then the Secretary shall succeed him, and discharge the duties of the President until the next Synod.

SECRETARY.

Art. 14. The Secretary shall keep a faithful and accurate account of all the proceedings of the Synod and Ministerium; carefully preserve all the papers, the seal, &c. of the Synod subject to its direction, and shall do all the official writing of the Synod not otherwise provided for.

Art. 15. He is to keep a register of the names of all the ministers and licentiates, arranged according to their age in office, and also of the Congregations, whether vacant or not, connected with the Synod.

Art. 16. If the accumulation of business should render it necessary, the President may appoint an assistant Secretary, whose office shall expire at the close of the session of the Synod.

Art. 17. If in the recess of the Synod, the Secretary should remove into the bounds of another Synod, or depart this life, the President shall require the Archives, the seal, and all other property of the Synod, to be delivered to him, and shall retain the charge of them until the next session of the Synod, when he shall appoint a Secretary pro tem.

Art. 18. Unless the Archives are otherwise disposed of by the Synod, they shall be in the charge and custody of the Secretary. Any Minister or Delegate of a Congregation connected with said Synod, shall have free access to them; but no part of them shall be allowed to be taken away or destroyed.

TREASURER.

Art. 19. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the monies belonging to the Synod, and shall keep them subject to its order. He shall give bond and security in such sum as the Synod may direct, he shall keep, and present at each annual meeting a detailed and faithful account of the state of the Treasury.

Art. 20. An order from the President, attested by the Secretary on the Treasurer, shall be a sufficient voucher for him, to pay money out of the Treasury.

Art. 21. Should the Treasurer, during the recess of the Synod, remove out of its bounds, or be removed by death: he shall deliver, or cause to be delivered to said Synod all the monies, certificates, bonds and documents in his hands, belonging to it, at its next annual session.

Section III.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD.

Art. 1. It is the sacred duty of every ordained Minister, Licentiate and Lay-Delegate of this Synod to observe the provisions of this Constitution.

Art. 2. It is recommended to every Ordained Minister and Licentiate, to aid in circulating among the members of his charge, the books proposed by said Synod for use.

Art. 3. No Minister or Licentiate shall interfere with the Congregations of another, by preaching or performing other ministerial duties in them, except by his request or consent, if present; nor in his absence, if he have reason to think that any evil would result to said Church. The charter of any Congregation shall in this, as well as in all other cases, have the precedence, according to Section 1st, Article 6th.

Art. 4. Any Minister or Licentiate in good standing, who removes from the bounds of this Synod into those of another, shall on application to the President, receive a certificate under his signature, of his honorable dismissal.

Art. 5. Every Ordained Minister has the right to leave his charge, and remove to another, whenever he believes it his duty to do so; yet he must give the President and his Congregations notice thereof, eight weeks, before the time of his intended removal.

Art. 6. A licensed Candidate shall have the liberty to visit vacant Congregations, either upon receiving an invitation from them, or upon the advice of the Synod or President.

Art. 7. After a Licentiate has a stated charge, he shall be restricted to it, and shall not resign it without the consent of the Ministerium, or in its recess, of the President.

Art. 8. A Licentiate has power to perform all the ministerial functions, during the time specified in his license.

Art. 9. In addition to the obligations of Ministers specified in chapter 3, section 1st of the Formula, it is the duty of Licentiates particularly, to devote all their leisure time to their personal improvement, and knowledge, and grace, to receive counsel from the President, and apply to him for advice in cases of difficulty.

Art. 10. Every Licentiate must keep a general Journal of his ministerial acts, which with a few sermons of his own composition, he must deliver, or send annually for the inspection of the Ministerium.

LAY-DELEGATES.

Art. 11. Each Lay-Delegate, entitled to a seat by this Con-

stitution, shall have equal rights with the Ministers in all business belonging to the Synod; that is, may take part in the debates, offer resolutions, and vote on all Synodical questions.

Section IV.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

It is recommended, that the transactions of the Synod be conducted as follows:

Art. 1. At the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall assemble, and if two Ordained Ministers, one Licentiate and three Lay-Delegates be present, they shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 2. The President shall open the first session by prayer, after the brethren have unitedly sung an hymn. And every session of the Synod and Ministerium shall be opened and closed with prayer. In the absense of the President, the first prayer shall be made by the Secretary, and if he also be absent, by one of the elder Ministers present.

Art. 3. After prayer the Secretary shall call the names of all the ordained Ministers and Licentiates, belonging to the Synod, and note the absentees.

Art. 4. The Lay-Delegates shall then exhibit the certificate of their appointment, and their names be registered by the Secretary, as members of the Synod.

Art. 5. The President shall make his report according to Section 2d, Article 5th, of this Constitution, as the last official act of his office, and then inform the members, that

Art. 6. The election of officers for the ensuing year is now to be attended to.

Art. 7. A dismission of Delegates or Ministers from other Ecclesiastical Bodies, according to Section 1, Articles 14, 15.

Art. 8. The Minutes of the last Synod may be read.

Art. 9. All papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium are to be handed in, and verbal notice may be given of any important business intended to be brought before the Synod.

Art. 10. The Secretary shall then number the papers as arranged by the President, after which they shall be taken up and discussed before the whole house in numerical order, or be first referred to Committees, as the house may direct. The reports of Committees may be heard and acted on at any time, and the intervals be filled up by the succeeding items.

Art. 11. Each Minister shall be called on by the Secretary, for the record of persons baptized and confirmed, as well as of the regular communing members, belonging to his churches; as also of the number of Schools.

Art. 12. The Treasurer's account shall be heard.

Art. 13. The number of vacant congregations be inquired into, and provision made for them.

Art. 14. Promiscuous business.

Art. 15. Election of Delegates to Ecclesiastical Bodies, and of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Art. 16. Choice of the time and place for the next meeting of Synod.

Art. 17. Dismission of the Synod, and annunciation of the time of the Ministerial session.

Art. 18. Should the President or Secretary be absent at the proper time for opening a session, the members present may elect others pro tempore.

Section V.

PROCESS AGAINST A MINISTER.

Art. 1. As the honor and success of the Gospel depend very much on the character of its Ministers, the Synod ought to guard with the utmost care and impartiality the conduct of its members.

Art. 2. All Christians should be very cautious in giving credit or circulation to an ill report of any man, and especially of a minister of the Gospel; if any man knows a Minister to be guilty of a private censurable fault, he should warn him in private. If this prove fruitless, he should apply to the Church Council, who shall proceed as specified in Chapter 3, paragraph 5, of the Formula.

Art. 3. If accusation be lodged according to Chapter 3, § 5 of said Formula, with the President, within four months of the time of the next synodical Meeting, he shall defer the matter to said meeting; yet, if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental errors in doctrine, or a higher crime, he shall immediately direct the accused to suspend all his ministerial duties, until his case is decided. If such accusation is lodged with the President at an earlier date, he shall, if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine, or higher crime, immediately give notice to all the members of the Synod, to which the accused belongs, to meet, without delay, at a suitable place, and institute a formal investigation of the case, according to the principles of the Formula. The President shall immediately fix the time and place of the meeting, and give at least fifteen days notice of the same to each Minister in the Synod, and also to the parties concerned.

Art. 4. The President shall appoint a Committee of three ordained Ministers, and shall fix the time and place of their meeting, and give all the notice as above required.

Art. 5. A Committee of three ordained Ministers thus appointed, shall have power to proceed, and hold a fair and impartial investigation of the case, and to take all such measures as may be just and necessary, to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Art. 6. If the accused confess, and the matter be base and flagitious, such as are specified in Article 3, of this section, however penitent he may be, he must immediately be suspended from the exercise of his office, and, if thought expedient, a time appointed for him publicly to confess to the Congregation his guilt and penitence.

Art. 7. If a Minister accused of atrocious crimes, being duly notified, refuses to attend the investigation, he shall still be immediately suspended from office.

Art. 8. If the accused deny the charge, and yet on examination of the evidences is found guilty, the Synod or Committee shall nevertheless proceed to pass sentence on him.

Art. 9. The highest punishment which can be inflicted by a Committee appointed as above specified, is suspension from clerical functions; and this sentence is to be reported to the next meeting of the Synod, and remains in force until reversed by the Synod or Ministerium, as the case may be.

Art. 10. Any Minister intending to appeal from the decision of a Committee, shall give notice of it to his accusers within three weeks after the time when the decision was made;—that both parties may be prepared for a new trial.

Art. 11. If at any time, accusation be lodged with the President, according to Chapter 3d, paragraph 5th of the Formula, for a less crime than those above specified in Article the 3d, of this section, he shall take no other steps in the case, than to write a letter to the accused and the accusers, exhorting them to mutual forbearance and refering them to the next Synod.

Art. 12. If accusation against a Minister be made immediately to the Synod, and the Synod believe themselves in possession of all the evidence necessary to a just decision, the case may be immediately examined and sentence passed. But if the necessary evidence be not before them, and the crime be such as is specified in Article 3d of this section, they shall appoint a meeting of a Committee, who shall proceed as above specified.

Art. 13. If a Minister be found guilty of drunkenness, fundamental heresy, lewdness, or higher crimes, his sentence of

suspension shall not be removed until after some time of penitent, humble and edifying conduct. And he cannot be restored by any judicatory than the Synod or Ministerium, if his case was one of fundamental heresy.

Section VI.

VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

Art. 1. Vacant Congregations which cannot be immediately supplied with a Minister, are advised to assemble on the Lord's Day, to select some member of the Church, of suitable capacities and character, to conduct the exercises and engage in the worship of God.

Art. 2. It is also recommended, that at these meetings, a portion of the Scriptures, and of the prayers contained in the Liturgy, or some select sermons, such as are approved by the President of the Synod, be read.

Section VII.

OF MISSIONS.

As the blessed Saviour left to his followers the command :-
 "Go ye and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Matth. 28. 19, 20. the Synod shall regard it as a sacred duty to adopt, from time to time, such measures as they may deem best calculated to execute this solemn injunction.

Section VIII.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS.

The election of Delegates to Ecclesiastical Bodies and Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, may be held by ballot, and a licensed Candidate shall not be eligible to either of these offices.

Section IX.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

Art. 1. It is earnestly recommended that special Conferences be held within the bounds of this Synod, on a week-day or Sabbath.

Art. 2. It is desirable, that a Conference be held each year. It ought to last two days, and the chief business to be performed at the same, is to awaken sinners and to edify believers by close practical preaching.

Art. 3. The state of religion in the churches ought to be enquired into, and at least an hour be spent by the Conference alone in conversation, on subjects relating to pastoral experience.

Art. 4. These Conferences ought to be held alternately, in some Congregation of each Minister, and Licentiate belonging to this Synod.

Art. 5. Special Conferences may give their advice on any business of Congregations which is referred to them; but no Conference shall, under any pretext whatever, perform any business connected with the Licensure or Ordination of Candidates for the Ministry.

Art. 6. Lay-Delegates may also be sent to these Conferences, under the same regulations as to the Synod, if it is thought advisable by the Synod.

Section X.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Art. 1. The Clergy shall then hold a meeting consisting exclusively of Scripture Elders, that is, preachers* for the purpose of attending to those duties, which Christ and his Apostles enjoined upon them alone, viz. Examination, Licensure and Ordination of Candidates for the Ministry. This meeting is called the Ministerium or Presbytery,† by which, in Scripture is meant Ministers alone.

Art. 2. Licensed Candidates may be present at the Ministerial meeting, unless requested to withdraw, and may take part in the discussions, but have no vote.

Art. 3. The Ministerium shall also be the proper body, by whom all charges of heresy against a Minister, are to be examined and decided; as also all appeals from the decision of a Church-Council, on a charge of heresy against a Lay-man.

Art. 4. When ordained Ministers of other religious denominations, make application for admission into connexion with this Synod, the Ministerium shall be the body to decide on the case.

Art. 5. A majority of two-thirds of the ordained Ministers shall be required, either for the licensure of an applicant as well as the renewal of his License, or the ordination of a licensed candidate, or the admission of an ordained Minister of another denomination.

Art. 6. No Minister or Licentiate, coming from a Foreign Country shall be received as a member of this Synod, until after a residence of two years in this country and unexceptionable deportment during that time. Excepting only, that if an ordained Minister comes well recommended for piety and learning, by a Consistorium, or a number of individuals, known to the Ministerium, as orthodox and evangelical, and if the

*Acts 20. 17, 28.

†1 Tim. 4. 14.

Ministerium believe they can safely confide in the testimonials, they may receive him for twelve months, after which the vote for his permanent reception, as a regular member shall be taken, and the case decided according to Article 5 of this section.

Art. 7. All business not specifically entrusted to the Ministerium in this Constitution, shall belong to the Synod.

Art. 8. The order of business of the Ministerium may be as follows :

1. After the Session has been opened with prayer, the President shall communicate any business which he may have to report, or propose.

2. The Licentiates shall hand in their licenses, sermons, and Journals, which may be read by the Licentiates, before the whole body. If want of time renders this inconvenient, committees ought then to be appointed to examine and report on them.

3. Applicants for licensure are examined.

4. After the examination of the applicants and of the sermons and journals of licentiates, the applicants and licentiates may be desired to withdraw, and the question of their licensure and renewal of license or ordination, be discussed and decided.

5. The licensure and ordination may be performed, either in the Ministerium or at an appointed hour, before a promiscuous assembly.

6. Promiscuous matters relative to Ministerial business may then be attended to.

7. Some time shall then be spent in conversation on pastoral experience.

8. The session closed as directed, Section 1V, Article 2.

Section XI.

EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE OF CANDIDATES.

Art. 1. The examination shall be conducted by a committee of 2 or more ordained Ministers, appointed for the purpose at the time.—

As these examinations may be interesting and useful to the whole Ministerium, it is recommended that they be performed before the whole body.

Art. 2. After the examination by the Committee, every member of the Ministerium has a right to ask the applicant any additional questions.

Art. 3. The examination ought to embrace the following subjects: viz. Personal piety, and the motives of the applicant for seeking the holy office, the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, the Evidences of Christianity, Natural and Revealed Theology, Church History, Pastoral Theology, the rules of Sermonizing, and Church Government.

Art. 4. During the recess of the Synod, the President may extend license to candidates who may come well recommended, and whom on proper examination he may deem qualified to discharge the duties of the ministry. Provided however, that the extension of License in such case, be not in conflict with the provision of Art. VI, Sec. 10.

Art. 5. The ceremony of Licensure shall be performed as follows: viz. an address from the President as prescribed in the Liturgy, he shall read the duties and privileges of the Licentiates, and then propose to him the following questions :

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to contain the word of God, and that it is the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

2. Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God are taught in a manner substantially correct, in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession?

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform the duties of a christian Minister, and to submit yourself to the rules of government and discipline of this body, so long as you remain a member of it?

Art. 6. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the President offers up a suitable prayer, delivers him his License and concludes with a short address as directed in the Liturgy.

Art. 7. All licenses shall extend to the time of the next annual meeting of the Ministerium, and shall be renewed as a matter of course, whether the Licentiate be present or not, unless satisfactory reasons are known to the Ministerium, which render a renewal inexpedient. And if for any reason, no meeting be held at the appointed time, the Licenses granted, by said Ministerium shall remain in force, until revoked at a subsequent meeting.

Art. 8. If a Licentiate after some time of probation, does in the judgment of the Ministerium, prove himself unqualified for the duties of the Ministry, his License shall be withdrawn.

Section XII. ORDINATION.

Art. 1. Whenever the Ministerium has decided that an individual shall be ordained, the ceremony shall be performed at the time and place where the decision has been made; it shall be performed in public, and if practicable, on the Lord's Day.

Art. 2. The ceremony of Ordination, wherever performed, shall be as follows:

1. A sermon ought to be preached by a person previously appointed, on the nature, duties and responsibilities of the Ministerial office.

2. The President of the Synod and Ministerium, or a Committee appointed by him, shall then, after a short address, such as is contained in the Liturgy, propose to the candidate the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to contain the word of God, and that it is the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

2. Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God, are taught in a manner substantially correct, in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession?

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform all the duties enjoined on you as a christian Minister, and to submit yourself to the rules of government and discipline of this body, so long as you remain a member of it?

4. Do you believe that in seeking the Ministerial office, you are influenced by a sincere love to God your Saviour, and desire to promote his glory in the welfare of men?

5. Do you promise faithfully and zealously to preach the truths of the Gospel, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as contained in the Holy Scriptures?

Art. 3. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the candidate shall kneel down, when the President or presiding Minister, shall ordain him after the apostolical example by prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the Ministry i. e. Presbytery. The candidate shall then rise, and the officiating Minister, and after him the Ordained Ministers present, shall take him by the right hand, and welcome him to take part in the Ministry with them. The ceremonies may then be concluded by the benediction.

Art. 4. This Constitution can be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Synod, by consent of two-thirds of the members present.

Thus unanimously adopted by a session of this Synod, held at St. Paul's Church, Lincoln County, N. C. in May, 1832.